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## JOURNAL OF MYCOLOGY

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W. A. KELLERMAN, PH. D., COLUMBUS, OHIO.

## NOTES.

It is not quite clear why mycological papers should be presented before three or four or more American botanical societies—or rather to go to the real root of the matter, why there should be the numerous organizations as there are, unrestricted or national in scope and indistinguishable in objects and methods.

Would it not be most rational, and from every point of view far preferable to have for presentation and discussion of the *scientific papers* but one national association — though of course the more local clubs throughout the country the better perhaps. This general organization might well be Section G, A. A. A. S. At each annual meeting as many divisions could be made as necessary and convenient for the more satisfactory reading and consideration of the papers grouped according to subjects.

Why should not the various botanical societies (other than local organizations) exist for and be devoted exclusively to their definite restricted subjects — meeting not for hearing papers on general scientific subjects or even the details of research work, but for the purpose of discussing, improving, extending methods, terminology, publication, indexing, etc. For example, the general purpose of promoting research and publishing the results to which we may perhaps say the Botanical Society of America is in the main committed, is a most worthy object; why is that not sufficiently ambitious? Why should the papers dealing with all manner and scope of research work be read before it? Ditto, for the other botanical societies too numerous to mention. Section G, A'. A. A. S. would furnish an audience patient and long suffering.

And now the Mycologists (Systematists) are talking of organizing; having a society of their own! Certainly a commendable project — provided (in our humble opinion) that the purpose is, not to read scientific papers to themselves, but to discuss new or disputed topics, subjects of technical interest; to consider questions peculiar to systematic Mycology; to ponder the distressing matter of nomenclature, as well as terminology, types, publication and illustration of new species, indexing, journalistic work, and a raft of other topics more or less exclusively pertaining to our business as specialists.